

1 Status of the Claims

Below please find the current status of the claims. Entry and consideration of all amendments as indicated is respectfully requested.

1.-24. (Withdrawn.)

25. (Currently Amended.) An isolated antibody specific to the viral capsid of a non-naturally occurring virus, said antibody prepared by a process comprising: isolating a nucleic acid putatively encoding a gene encoding a protein forming at least a portion of said viral capsid from a non-naturally occurring viral genome; programming a cell free translation system with said nucleic acid to express said protein; determining that capsid assembly has occurred as an indication that said viral gene is required for capsid assembly; and raising said antibody against said protein; and isolating said antibody.

26. (Previously Presented.) The antibodies according to claim 25 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.